

Subject: Re: Should L.A. legalize street vendors? Stakes are high for shop owners
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 8:42:11 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Laura Hill
To: Jessica Lall

Thank you!

LH

Laura Hill
Communications and Policy Manager



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From: Jessica Lall <Jessica@Southpark.La>
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2015 3:44 PM
To: Laura Hill <laura@southpark.la>
Subject: FW: Should L.A. legalize street vendors? Stakes are high for shop owners

vendor who came to a city hearing to plead for legalization. "We're not criminals," she added.

But business owners such as Lopez are pushing back, arguing that the city must make sure that any legal blessing for sidewalk vendors does not hurt law-abiding brick-and-mortar shops saddled with rent and other costs. Members of a group called the Coalition to Save Small Business argue that, as it stands, unlicensed vendors have an unfair edge over businesses like theirs.

"I have to pay liability insurance. I have to pay for health department permits. It's a lot of overhead," said Cesar Jimenez, who sells fish tacos at farmers' markets that impose their own rules on vendors. "And they can just set up a cart on the corner?"

Other shopkeepers worry about mobile vendors who block or sully sidewalks, leaving neighboring businesses to clean up the mess, or set up shop right outside their doors. Many are doubtful the city would be able to enforce any rules at all: Sidewalk vending is now generally prohibited, yet remains widespread in areas such as MacArthur Park and the Fashion District.

"Some areas are wildly out of control," said Councilman Paul Koretz, who has been skeptical of legalization.

As city officials mull over new rules, the business coalition says its membership has swelled to more than 1,000 small shops and restaurants. It is pushing officials to limit vending to areas where businesses and residents approve it, bar vendors from selling the same kinds of goods directly outside their brick-and-mortar competitors, and cap th